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URBAN DISTRICT
OF
NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1939.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District Council
of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

Madame Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1939 relating to the sanitary circumstances and the health of the urban district.

This report is arranged in accordance with the Ministry of Health's circulars 1961 and 2067 in which is pointed out the desirability of curtailing as much as possible the annual report during the period of the war.

The long looked for transition from a Medical Officer permitted to engage in private practice to one debarred by the terms of his appointment from so doing, took place with my appointment to the Medical Officership on 1st October, 1939.

With the declaration of war, an intensification of effort was called for in the organisation of the Casualty Services and the sudden influx of these additional responsibilities imposed an ever increasing pressure of work on the Public Health Department.

Hence much of the matter which customarily appeared in previous reports has been omitted, only that which is deemed essential being retained.

The compilation of this report has been brought about by the review of the recorded information handed on by my predecessor in office, Dr. W. Stephenson, and also with the assistance of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Kailofer, to both of whom I tender my sincere thanks for their valuable aid.

I am,
Madame Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES ANGUS, M.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Urban District Council

December, 1940.

URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health:

James Angus,

M.B., CH.B., B.HY., D.P.H.
Appointed 1st October, 1939.

Wm. Stephenson,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (Lond.)
Appointment relinquished 30th September, 1939.

Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector, and Housing Supervisor:

James Kailofer,

M.R.San. Inst., M.S.I.A., F.F.A.S.,
Certif. R.S.I. Meat and Foods.

Offices:- Council Offices, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

Telephone:- Newbiggin 50.

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URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1939.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area - in acres - 1841.

Registrar General's estimate of

(a) Resident population mid 1939..... 9114
(b) Average population appropriate to the
calculation of death rates..... 9199

Number of inhabited houses at 31st December 1939 - 2432

Rateable value at April 1939 - £35201

Sum represented by 1d. Rate - £147.

Social Conditions.

The district is mainly mining with a small proportion of Fishermen and Agricultural workers. There is also an Artificial Stone Works which employs approximately 100 men.

Unemployment.

Figures relating to unemployment are not available for 1939.

Vital Statistics.

Births:-

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.....	169	85	84
Illegitimate.....	6	3	3

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 19.2

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.....	11	6	5
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 59.14

Deaths:-

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
114	66	48

Death Rate per 1,000 of the average population - 12.39

Death Rate multiplied by areal comparability factor (1.18)
- 14.62.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registr. General's short list):-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No.29 Puerperal Sepsis.....	0	0
No.30 Other puerperal causes.....	0	0
Total.....	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.....	56.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births..	52.32
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	200.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	14
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	0

The Registrar General supplies the following:-

CAUSES OF DEATHS 1939.

	<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers..	..	-
2.	Measles	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	-
4.	Whooping Cough	-
5.	Diphtheria..	-
6.	Influenza	-
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	-
8.	Cerebro Spinal Fever..	-
9.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	-
10.	Other Tuberculosis	2	-
11.	Syphilis	-	1
12.	General Paralysis of the insane Tabes Dorsalis	-	-
13.	Cancer, malignant disease..	6	8
14.	Diabetes	1	1
15.	Cerebral Haemorrhage..	10	4
16.	Heart disease	13	10
17.	Aneurysm	-	1
18.	Other circulatory diseases..	4	3
19.	Bronchitis..	1	-
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)..	4	3
21.	Other respiratory diseases..	-	-
22.	Peptic ulcer	-	-
23.	Diarrhoea, etc (under 2 years)	-	-
24.	Appendicitis	1	-
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	2	-
26.	Other diseases of Liver etc..	-	-
27.	Other Digestive diseases	-	-
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	1
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
30.	Other puerperal causes	-	-
31.	Con. deb: Premature birth etc...	4	2
32.	Senility	-	2
33.	Suicide	1	-
34.	Other violence	7	2
35.	Other defined diseases	6	8
36.	Causes ill-defined	-	-

		Male	Female
Deaths of infants under 1 year.	(Legitimate.....	5	4
	(Illegitimate.....	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	Totals.....	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>
Live Births.	(Legitimate.....	85	84
	(Illegitimate.....	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	Totals.....	<u>88</u>	<u>87</u>
Still Births.	(Legitimate.....	6	5
	(Illegitimate.....	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	Totals.....	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>

INFANTILE MORTALITY - 1939.

Causes of death.	Total								Total under 1 yr.	
	Und 1 wk	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	under 1 mth	1-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths		
Premature birth	2	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	4
Atrophy, debility, marasmus	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Malform- ations	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Injury at birth	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Syphilis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Meningitis non tubercular-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	4	1	1	-	6	2	1	-	1	10

No deaths were registered as being due to - Measles, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea and enteritis, Meningitis Tubercular, Abdominal Tuberculosis, Convulsions, Bronchitis.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Laboratory Facilities.

Laboratory facilities are available at the Laboratory belonging to the Northumberland County Council. The number of specimens submitted was 223.

Results.

Sputa for Tubercl...	Positive 0:	Negative 85
Swabs for C.Diphtheriae.....	Positive 23:	Negative 68
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococcus...	Positive 14:	Negative 23
Faeces for Food Poisoning organisms..	Positive 2:	Negative 3
Blood (widal) for enteric organisms..	Positive 0:	Negative 4
Virulence Test for Morphological C.Diphtheria.....	Positive 1	

Ambulance Facilities.

For accidents and non-infectious cases - One - Miners Welfare. For infectious cases - Ambulance of the Ashington Urban District Council obtained by arrangement. This service covers adequately the needs of the area.

Nursing in the Home.

These services are substantially similar to those in the Annual Report of 1938.

Treatment Centres.

There are no new developments or changes under this heading to report during 1939 and all the clinics and schemes described in 1938 have been continued in the past year and are administered by the Northumberland County Council.

Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

Within the Area - General Hospitals - none.

This Local Authority is now a constituent member of the proposed Joint Hospital scheme for No.2 Area Northumberland for the provision of an Infectious Diseases Hospital. Meanwhile cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital of the Ashington Urban District Council or to that of Newcastle Corporation.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

Water is derived in bulk in ample amount from the reservoirs of Tynemouth Corporation; consumption 1939 approximately 200,000 gallons per day.

During the year 5 samples of water were taken from various parts in the district and all proved to be very highly satisfactory upon examination.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No extensions of water mains of any importance were undertaken during the year nor was it necessary to carry out any further arrangements for sewage disposal.

Rivers and Streams.

No action was found necessary in this respect.

Closet Accommodation.

Public Cleansing.

The Scavenging at North Seaton Colliery has been undertaken by direct labour this year. The public cleansing at Newbiggin continues to be by contract.

Offices.

The only two larger types of offices in the district have been found to be eminently satisfactory from the point of view of ventilation, heating and adequately provided with sanitary conveniences.

Camping Sites.

(1) Number of sites in the area used for camping purposes during 1939 One

(2) Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority (Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936)

(3) Estimated maximum number of tents and bivouacs erected in the area at one time during summer season 1914-1918 was 1914-1918

Should this site be used at any future date for camping purposes the owners should be required to make to the satisfaction of the local authority, fuller provision in the way of water supplies, ablution benches, sanitary bins and sanitary conveniences and thereby avoid much of the nuisance complained of during the past season by the absence of a sufficiency of the last mentioned items.

Smoke Abatement.

For many years this community, like many another one, has been subjected to the noisome and disagreeable results of sulphurous fumes arising from adjacent pit refuse heaps on these becoming aflame. With every adverse air current the town was enveloped in certain zones by these exhalations, greatly to the annoyance and discomfort of the inhabitants. The exigencies of the military situation, stipulating an absolute black-out, brought about with all expedition the complete abatement of this nuisance and this has been achieved by the incessant pumping of water over the cone of pit refuse - a remedy be it noted which had been put in operation voluntarily several years ago by a colliery in another district with similar success. It is to be hoped that no reversion to the former state of affairs will take place by discontinuing the pumping of water after the cessation of hostilities.

Nowadays the chief offender in the way of atmospheric pollution is the domestic chimney, which, in the case of some householders, is from time to time permitted to become alight, either unwittingly or by design, causing much unnecessary disturbance to the amenity of the immediate surroundings.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public swimming baths or bathing pools. Pithead baths of the most modern type have been erected at Newbiggin Colliery and North Seaton Colliery.

Accommodation	Newbiggin Colliery	1050
"	North Seaton Colliery	700

The facilities at these baths are meantime reserved exclusively for males, and it might be found convenient to extend the service to women and children as opportunity offers.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

The paving and draining of streets at Lynwood Avenue, Brentwood Avenue, and Woodhorn Crescent has been carried out.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(1) Number of Council houses found to be infested during the year was 1, which was disinfested.

(2) Number of private houses found to be infested during the year was 3. All were disinfested.

(3) The method employed for disinfecting houses is by means "Pyagra" Insecticide used with a pressure spray.

No methods are employed to ensure that belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses.

All disinfectations are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector's department.

Schools.

Schools are seven in number and in Newbiggin and North Seaton the general sanitary condition and water supply of all remain satisfactory.

Public Conveniences are four in number.

SECTION D.

Housing.

The advent of war has absolutely frustrated any further activities in this direction on the part of the authority and no resuscitation of the intended and necessary housing programmes can be looked for until the national emergency has passed.

Number of New Houses Erected during the year 1939.

(a) By Local Authority (with state Assistance)	16
(b) By other Bodies or Persons.....	<u>12</u>
Total.....	<u>28</u>

It might be appropriate under this heading to mention that at the rear of certain rows in North Seaton Colliery a paved foot path is being laid along the terrace abutting the hindmost wall of the houses. It is to be hoped that this is not the prelude to the reprehensible practice of cement concreting what is at present an unpaved yard in common and exalting it to the order of a highway, repairable by the inhabitants at large, on being taken over as an approved street by the Local Authority. Were such to take place, each householder is deprived for ever of a justly entitled privacy and is compelled to traverse a thorough fare in public from his house to any of the usual offices and sanitary conveniences. In other words each house should possess a paved yard defined by party walls and a back door opening on to a back street laid beyond the alignment of the out buildings existing at present.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

No. of Registered Cowkeepers at 31.12.39.....	8
No. of Registered Purveyors of Milk at 31.12.39...	16
No. of Cows at 31.12.39.....	129

Meat and other Foods.

The Slaughter houses in the district are visited and inspected. There are no public slaughter houses in this district nor is there any meat-marking scheme in force.

Number of Registered Slaughter houses at 31.12.39.. 4

Amount of unsound food seized..... Nil

Shell-Fish.

There are no beds for shell-fish intended for human consumption for sale in the district.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

Scarlet Fever - 39 cases were notified.

Diphtheria - 18 cases were notified.

Despite the need for condensation of the Annual Report, I make no apology for trespassing upon space for the purpose of once more emphasizing the obligation resting upon parents and guardians to secure the protection of their young children and charges from the ravages of diphtheria by submitting them to preventive inoculations as soon as they reach one year old - and let me add with a strong recommendation to acquire an extra re-inforcing treatment about age 5 as a further safeguard on their entry to school. With so many movements from town to country under the present conditions amongst the child population, the response to the offer of those preventive facilities (free of charge) ought to be eagerly made.

In this district these inoculations can be had at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic of the Northumberland County Council, Bay View West, Newbiggin.

Pneumonia - 33 cases were notified.

Enteric Fever - 1 case was notified.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted		Total Deaths
		to Hospital	Notified	
Smallpox	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	39	8	-	-
Diphtheria	18	4	-	-
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	1	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	-	-
Pneumonia	33	4	-	7
Erysipelas	6	-	-	-
Dysentery "Sonne"	3	3	-	-

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Und	65 &												Total.
		1 yr	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	over	
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet														
Fever	-	1	2	-	1	18	12	2	2	1	-	-	-	39
Diphtheria	-	-	1	1	7	6	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	18
Enteric														
Fever (incl. paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Puerperal														
Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	2	5	2	1	3	7	1	4	2	5	1	3	1	33
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	6
Cerebro														
Spinal														
Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery														
"Sonne"	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Resp. M.	Non- Resp. F.	Resp. M.	Non- Resp. F.	Resp. M.	Non- Resp. F.	Resp. M.	Non- Resp. F.
0-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	1	3	-	-	-	1	-
5-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
15-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	3	6	2	1	1	1	-

There were no non-notified deaths from Tuberculosis.

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case notes for certain Infectious diseases in the year 1939.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

England and Wales	County Boro's and Great Towns including London.	126	148	London dmin. County.
		Smaller towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50, at 1931 Censu.		
Rates per 1000 population				

Live Births	15.0	14.8	15.6	12.3
Still Births	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44

Deaths.

All Causes	12.1	12.0	11.2	11.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	-	-	-	-
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02
Influenza	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18

Notifications.

Smallpox	0.00	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1.89	1.96	1.78	1.53
Diphtheria	1.41	1.21	1.16	0.98
Enteric	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Erysipelas	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.37
Pneumonia	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.99

Rates per 1000 live births.

Deaths under 1 year of age.	50	53	40	48
Deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis under 2 years of age	4.6	6.3	3.0	8.2

Maternal

Mortality:-

Puerperal Sepsis	0.77)	
Others	2.16)	Not available
Total	2.93)	

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and still)

Maternal Mortality-

Puerperal Sepsis	0.74)	
Others	2.08)	not available
Total	2.82)	

Notifications-

Puerperal Fever)	14.35	17.26	12.99	16.31
" Pyrexia)				?